



AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW: General George Washington

Letter from George Washington to Nathanael Greene:

The late passage of the 3 Vessels up the North River (which we have just received advice of) is so plain a Proof of the Inefficacy of all the Obstructions we have thrown into it, that I cannot but think, it will fully Justify a Change in the disposition which has been made. If we cannot prevent Vessels passing up, and the Enemy are possessed of the surrounding Country, what valuable purpose can it answer to attempt to hold a Post from which the expected Benefit cannot be had; I am therefore inclined to think it will not be prudent to hazard the men and Stores at Mount Washington, but as you are on the Spot, leave it to you to give such Orders as to evacuating Mount Washington as you Judge best and so far revoking the Order given Colo. Magaw to defend it to the last.

Source: John C. Fitzpatrick, ed. *The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources*, vol. 6 (Washington, 1931-1944). Available online courtesy of the University of Virginia Library Electronic Text Center at <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/WasFi06.html>.